

# Risk taskforce

## *Taskforce for risk assessment for food safety in Vietnam: Operational research to assist policy and capacity building*

### Project objectives

Risk analysis is considered the gold-standard approach for food safety management. However, in Vietnam risk analysis capacity is lacking in practical application, especially in informal markets, where the majority of domestically produced foods are bought and sold.

The food safety risk assessment taskforce was established in 2013 with the aim of developing the capacity of decision-makers and national researchers in Vietnam to use risk-based approaches for food safety management.

### Activities

#### Interdisciplinary assessment team

The taskforce brought together risk assessment experts from universities and research institutes, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

#### Analyses of food safety policy and research evidence use for food safety policy

Key informant interviews were undertaken with 20 experts and policymakers in food safety.



*Pork market in Vietnam*

#### Consultation meetings and workshops

Stakeholder workshops were held to identify the scope of activities and formulate priority issues in food safety upon which the taskforce worked. Workshops were also held to disseminate outputs.

#### Training and capacity building

Training sessions on risk assessment for taskforce members and staff from the ministries were held.

#### Case studies

Case studies on the use of risk assessment were conducted to characterize health risks associated with relevant food commodities in Vietnam, such as pork, fish and vegetables.



*Case studies on health risks in staple foods*

## Achievements

Together with partners, the project has accomplished several important tasks.

- Published a special issue of risk assessment in the Vietnamese Journal of Preventive Medicine.
- Developed a policy brief on risk-based approach to food safety.
- Conducted 2-10-day training courses on advanced risk assessment for taskforce members. Also organized training courses on risk assessment for veterinary staff from the Department of Animal Health, MARD.
- Released a report on food safety systems and public health in Vietnam.
- Conducted case studies of risk assessment related to:
  - Vegetables grown, and fish raised and caught in wastewater (Ha Nam Province).
  - Ready-to-eat vegetable and noodle soup (Hanoi).
  - Antibiotic and heavy metal residues in pork (Hung Yen Province).
  - Dioxin in foods (Da Nang and Bien Hoa, provinces, considered severe dioxin hotspots).

## Next steps

- Make risk-based approaches easier to use and adapt for local contexts.
- Publish two risk assessment guideline documents on food safety related to biological and chemical hazards.

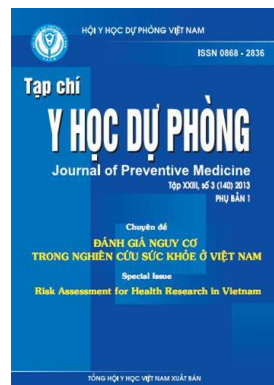
## Risk taskforce member

Ministries	Universities/Research institutes	International partners
Ministry of Health (MOH) Vietnam Food Administration	Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH) National Institute of Nutrition National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology National Institution for Food Control	International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenya and Vietnam Rakuno Gakuen University, Japan Swiss Tropical and Public Health (Swiss TPH)
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) Department of Animal Health	Ho Chi Minh Institute of Public Health Vietnam National University of Agriculture National Institute of Veterinary Research	

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Confederaziun svizra  
  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



Special issue of health risk assessment and policy brief on food safety risk assessment



Taskforce meeting in December 2014

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